Usage of MetaLib and SFX in the Max Planck Society

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Introducing Max Planck Society (MPS)

- 76 independent research institutes in Germany and abroad; organized in 3 scientific sections
- **Mission**: Basic research in the sciences, arts and humanities
- **Total Staff**: 13,000
- **Budget**: 1.720 billion Euro
- About 70 libraries and few central units (e.g. MPDL)
- MPG information management is assembled from centralized and decentralized services
Introducing virtual Library Project (vLib)

- Started in 2001 as an initiative of MPG libraries
- Usage of **commercial Software**: Adapted and extended to fulfill the needs of scientists in MPG
- **Central installations** to serve the complete MPG, but generating institute specific views and further options of localization
- **vLib Portal** = Integration of all resources relevant for information retrieval into one user interface (e.g. reference databases and library catalogs) = catalog of resources + metasearch
- **MPG/SFX Link Resolver** = Seamless navigation from a reference to further information = global/local services
What we have done: MetaLib I

Resource Feeds

- **Aim**: Advertise resources independently from UI, offer off-portal entry points.
- **Solution**: cgi script.
- **Based on X-Services source_locate, etc.**
- **Dynamic feeds, resource list is created on request.**
- **Static feeds .rss generated on a regular basis.**
What we have done: MetaLib 2

MetaLib Resource Monitor ("mlreswatch")
- Aim: Assure constant quality of linking and search services.
- Solution: OS software project

- Question: How can any status of quality be determined?
- Setup: Run basic tests on daily, extended tests on weekly basis.
- Results: Detect all sorts of errors prior to user complaints.
What we have done: SFX 1

**EZB-Fetch**

- Fetching holding information from the Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek (EZB)
- SFX Plugin requests the OpenURL interface of the EZB; adds local attributes (e.g. availability and target URLs) to the context objects
- These attributes are afterwards used by the corresponding target service
What we have done: SFX 2

BibTex record to paste & copy

- Extending ExLibris' CAPTURE_CITATION service
- by adding BibTex as additional citation style
- and revising the complete look&feel
How do we work

The MPDL infrastructure team provides us with **svn & trac**, incl.

- wiki for our documentation
- ticket system for new requests
- svn repository for our code changes (diff views)
- group based permissions
- timeline, tags, milestones, rss, ...

Not sure how ElCommons will fit into this environment
Lessons learned & Future ahead

- SFX services are highly accepted among users
- Usefulness of meta search is questionable; but the vLib portal is very important as central catalog of resources
- Adapting ExLibris systems to local needs requires continuous commitment and resources (monitoring, testing, revision)
- What we expect from ExLibris
  - stable and well-documented APIs – standards if applicable
  - planning reliability: We need to know early which functionalities will be implemented by ExLibris (and when)
- What we envision for the future?
  - MetaLib UC Author Bibliography
  - SFX UC Citation Parsing
Entry Points

- vLib Portal: http://vlib.mpg.de
- MPG/SFX Citation Linker: http://sfx.mpg.de/citation/sfx_local
- About vLib: http://vlib.mpg.de/aboutvlib.html
- vLib blog: http://blog.vlib.mpg.de
- Project documentation: https://dev.livingreviews.org/projects/vlib/